

Message Text

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TAGS: OREP (RIBICOFF, ABRAHAM/BAKER, HOWARD)

SUBJ: WRAP-UP OF CODEL RIBICOFF/BAKER VISIT

1. CODEL RIBICOFF/ BAKER VISITED IRAN NOV 15-20 AND IN THE COURSE OF THEIR STAY HAD MEETINGS WITH THE SHAH, THE PRIMIN (WITH ATOMIC ENERGY ORGANIZATION PRES ETEMAD PRESENT), VICE MINISTER OF WAR GEN TOUFANIAN, AND 2 EXTENDED BRIEFING SESSIONS WITH THE AMB, DCM, DEFREP IRAN, AND ARMISH/MAAG CHIEF. THEY WERE ENTERTAINED AT DINNER BY THE SHAH, A UNIQUE DEPARTURE FROM USUAL PRACTICE, AT LUNCH BY THE PRIMIN, AND AT A RECEPTION GIVEN IN THEIR HONOR BY THE AMB. IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING, CODEL MET VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE OTHER SENIOR GOI MINISTERS, INCLUDING MINISTER OF COURT ALAM, MINISTER OF STATE AND SECY GEN OF THE RASTAKHIZ PARTY AMOUZEGAR, MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE ANSARY, AND FONMIN KHALATBARY. THEY HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH THESE OFFICIALS A WIDE RANGE OF LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS OF COMMON INTEREST AND CONCERN, INCLUDING US ARMS POLICY TO IRAN, REGIONAL SECURITY, NUCLEACQPROLIFERATION, OIL PRICES, INDEXATION, AND SO FORTH.

2. TWO DAYS OF THEIR VISIT WERE SPENT IN ISFAHAN AND SHIRAZ. AT ISFAHAN THEY WERE BRIEFED ON THE F-14 PROGRAM BY GRUMMAN REPS AND TOURED KHATAMI AIR FORCE BASE. THEY ALSO MET WITH REPS OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY TO GET THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF IRAN AND HOW IT WAS FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW TO LIVE AND WORK IN IRAN. MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO RATHER SHARPLY QUESTION CODEL ABOUT RECENT TAX LEGISLATION AFFECTING AMERICAN WORKING ABROAD AND TO POINT OUT THE ADVERSE AND IN THEIR VIEW UNFAIR EFFECTS THE RETROACTIVE PROVISIONS OF THIS

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LEGISLATION HAVE ON THEM PERSONALLY. THEY WERE ENTERTAINED AT

DINNER BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF ISFAHAN.

3. AT SHIRAZ THE CODEL ALSO MET WITH A LARGE REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN THE AREA. EXCHANGE WAS MUCH ALONG THE LINES OF THE ONE THAT THEY HAD WITH THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN ISFAHAN. THEY WERE ALSO GUESTS AT DINNER GIVEN BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF SHIRAZ.

4. ON THE RETURN FLIGHT TO TEHRAN FROM SHIRAZ, CODEL PASSED OVER THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ, GIVING THEM A VIVID VISUAL IMPRESSION OF THE STRATEGIC ROLE IT PLAYS IN THE FREE WORLD'S ACCESS TO PERSIAN GULF OIL. THIS AND ITS VULNERABILITY EVIDENTLY MADE A SHARP IMPRESSION ON MEMBERS OF THE DEL WHO REFERRED TO IT A NUMBER OF TIMES IN THEIR MEETING WITH THE AMB AND THE SHAH FOLLOWING THEIR RETURN TO TEHRAN.

5. THE CODEL'S VISIT CULMINATED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT MEHRABAD AIRPORT THE MORNING OF NOV 20 JUST PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE. AT THAT TIME SENATOR RIBICOFF SAID THAT HE BELIEVED IRAN TO BE A STEADFAST AND IMPORTANT FRIEND AND THAT IF THERE WAS ONE COUNTRY IN THIS WHOLE AREA THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER IMPORTANT FOR THE US, IT IS IRAN. SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DEL SPOKE IN A SIMILAR VENEUE (TEHRAN 11589).

6. SUMMARIES OF CODEL MEETINGS WITH THE SHAH, THE PRIME MINISTER, AND GEN TOUFANIAN ARE THE SUBJECTS OF SEPTTELS. HELMS

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